United Nations E/CN.3/2002/8

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
14 January 2002

Original: English

Statistical Commission
Thirty-third session
5-8 March 2002
Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda*
Economic statistics: national accounts

Report of the Task Force on National Accounts

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with a request of the Statistical Commission at its thirty-second session,** the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Commission the report of the Task Force on National Accounts (Convener: Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts).

* E/CN.3/2002/1.

** See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 4* (E/2001/24), chap. II.A.

02-21944 (E) 210202

Report of the Task Force on National Accounts

Contents

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	Introduction	1–2	4
II.	Updating the 1993 SNA	3–21	4
	A. Official recommendation on the treatment of mobile phone licences	3–7	4
	B. Discussion/conclusions on other topics	4–17	5
	1. Treatment of transfer costs and improvement to land	8–9	5
	2. Accrual accounting for interest	10	6
	3. Treatment of interest under conditions of high inflation	11	6
	4. Unfunded pension funds for government employees	12	6
	5. Stock options	13	6
	6. Treatment of non-performing loans	14	6
	7. Treatment of repurchase agreements	15	6
	8. Insurance/reinsurance	16	7
	9. Trademarks and franchises	17	7
	C. Advisory expert group to ISWGNA	18	7
	D. Work of the electronic discussion groups	19–20	7
III.	Assessment of the implementation of the 1993 SNA	21–25	7
	A. Revised version of the conceptual compliance questionnaire	22	8
	B. Data-quality assessment in national accounts	23–25	8
IV.	Coordination of work programmes on the implementation of the 1993 SNA	26–30	8
	A. Research agenda, conceptual and methodological development	26–29	8
	1. Treatment of intangible non-produced assets	26	8
	2. Handbook on non-profit institutions	27	9
	3. Revised handbook on environmental accounting	28	9
	4. Other research issues	29	9
	B. Integrated presentation of ISWGNA work programmes	30	9
V.	Points for discussion	31	9
Annexes			
I.	Revised version of the conceptual compliance questionnaire		10
II.	Terms of reference for the proposed ISWGNA advisory expert group		12

III. Manuals, handbooks and supporting materials for SNA implementation prepared by member bodies of ISWGNA 13

IV. Summary of SNA-related activities of ISWGNA member bodies 15

I. Introduction

1. At its thirty-second session, the Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed and endorsed the proposed new approach developed by the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA) for the assessment of the extent to which the System of National Accounts, 1993 (1993 SNA) has been implemented. It consists of three dimensions: (i) scope of the accounts, (ii) conceptual compliance and (iii) quality issues. The previous milestones had corresponded only to the "scope" dimension of the new approach;

(b) Supported the definition of the new scope of the accounts, consisting of three data sets (minimum, recommended, other) for assessing the broad coverage of national accounts in various regions. It agreed that the three data sets should be referred to by more neutral names (see sect. III below);

(c) Although it did not decide whether the three data sets should be considered as a replacement for or a supplement to the six milestones used over the past few years, recognized that both methods provide sufficient information to identify countries and regions that need technical assistance in 1993 SNA implementation;

(d) Recognized that for the time being, only an assessment of the first data set and after 2003 of the second data set can be conducted by the United Nations Statistics Division due to the transitional status of the new national accounts database (see sect. III below);

(e) Concluded that there is no simple solution to the problem of improving the effectiveness of electronic discussion groups. The priority of the issues at stake, the existence of a group with special interest in a topic and the method used to communicate when updates to such groups have taken place appear to be key factors in determining the extent to which an electronic discussion group is effective (see sect. II.B below);

(f) Encouraged ISWGNA to review the treatment of intangible assets and report back to it in 2002 (see sect. II.A below);

(g) Expressed satisfaction with the ISWGNA proposal regarding the clearance of manuals or handbooks developed by "city groups" and containing concepts that diverge from those contained in the 1993 SNA (i.e., to include a chapter or annex explicitly showing each such divergence and the underlying reasons);

(h) Requested that ISWGNA make a decision as quickly as possible on the national accounting treatment of mobile phone licences (see sect. II.A below).

2. Section II of the present report addresses the treatment of mobile phone licences and the discussion and/or conclusions on topics that are candidates for updates of the SNA. Section III provides information regarding the assessment of the implementation of the 1993 SNA. In section IV, the standard integrated presentation of the work programmes of ISWGNA in support of SNA implementation is provided.

II. Updating the 1993 SNA

A. Official recommendation on the treatment of mobile phone licences

3. The treatment of mobile phone licences has become an important issue in national accounts given the number of countries around the world selling licences that confer rights to use a given radio. After a special meeting held in Washington, D.C., in June 2000 and following discussions at a meeting of the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) National Accounts Working Party held in June 2000 and at an Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) national accounts expert meeting held in September 2000, ISWGNA agreed that such licences should be treated as intangible non-produced assets in their own right rather than as taxes, payment for a service or rent. Regarding the related issue of how to write off mobile phone licences, ISWGNA also agreed to recommend continuing the 1993 SNA treatment of restricting the write-off of their cost to the "other changes in volume of assets accounts". Due to the objections raised by some countries at its thirty-second session, the Commission requested ISWGNA to review the matter and reach a decision as quickly as possible.

4. ISWGNA convened a special meeting on mobile phones in April 2001, inviting interested countries and experts to attend the meeting, which was the second meeting in less than a year called by ISWGNA to specifically discuss mobile phone licences. The panel

included representatives of (or comments received from) the United Kingdom, the United States, Spain, France, Australia, Italy, Netherlands and all members of ISWGNA. The discussion was fruitful, and clarified the issues in question and the future research work needed for a more broad-based work on the treatment of all intangible assets. ISWGNA reached a number of conclusions, which were summarized in a provisional report that was circulated among members of the Commission during summer 2001, with comments requested to be reported before 29 November 2001. The United Nations Statistics Division received eight responses from members of the Commission, of which four stated explicitly their agreement with the ISWGNA proposal; one agreed with the main consequence of the proposal (treat up-front licence payments as sale of an asset) while disagreeing with part of the implementation method (create two distinct assets); one can be interpreted as an abstention; one states that it is premature to take a decision; and one is against the proposal on the basis of a broad range of arguments, including that the ISWGNA proposal is in contradiction with the current SNA.

5. ISWGNA has carefully analysed and discussed the comments received. One of the points discussed during the review is that the recommended method of implementation of the decision (creation of a non-produced licence asset) may be questionable when transposed to certain other cases, in particular produced assets. Alternative implementation treatments must be analysed in the context of its proposal of more broad-based work on the treatment of all non-produced assets. In that context, ISWGNA does not exclude the option that future clarifications should be made to SNA.

6. ISWGNA considers that the set of six criteria proposed in the report is sufficiently clear to lead to international comparability in the treatment of effective mobile phone agreements in the short term. It should be stressed again that ISWGNA has not decided that all mobile phone agreements are to be treated as the sale of an asset. There are conditions explicitly mentioned in each of the six criteria that allow for adaptation to country-specific economic conditions. A new annex has been attached to the report, describing such cases. When the set of criteria is completely or closely met, ISWGNA recommends strongly an interpretation as the sale of an asset. If not, a treatment as rent can be envisaged, or even mixed treatments, such as when up-front payments come with other payments that are not known at the moment of the first payment. If the set of criteria is used consistently, differences in its implementation would truly reflect differences in economic situations.

7. At the time of drafting the present report, it is hoped that, after the members of the Commission review the outcome of the recent ISWGNA deliberations sent to them on 21 December 2001, they will agree to adopting a consensual approach on this interpretation of the 1993 SNA so that the world community can move forward on this issue in anticipation of a comprehensive review of all intangible assets.

B. Discussion and conclusions on other topics

1. Treatment of transfer costs and improvement to land

8. At a joint OECD/Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) national accounts meeting held in Bangkok in May 1998, the Singapore Department of Statistics submitted a paper on the 1993 SNA recommended treatment of the costs incurred in transferring ownership of assets. It claimed that a major problem in that treatment was that capitalizing transfer costs would distort the measures of capital formation. In particular, when many buildings are being bought and sold, the capital stock would be increased somewhat artificially because of the transfer costs being added. ISWGNA considered that the issues raised by the Department were worthy of investigation, and an electronic discussion group was set up by OECD in late 1998 to obtain feedback from interested national accountants. About 12 papers were submitted to the group.

9. The conclusion of the moderator, Peter van de Ven of Statistics Netherlands, was that there is no case for changing the 1993 SNA treatment of the costs incurred in transferring ownership of assets because there are convincing arguments for as well as against the recommendations of the current international guidelines. ISWGNA discussed the issue, agreed with Mr. van de Ven's conclusion and decided to complete the debate on the topic by dissolving the group.

2. Accrual accounting for interest

10. In the 1993 SNA, the accrual recording for interest is based on the originally contracted conditions. However, as market interest rates change and contracts change hand, there are divergences of views on the contract, the initial contract from the point of view of debtors (the debtor approach), the newly acquired contract from that of the creditor at the point of purchase (the acquisition approach) or on a continuing basis (the creditor approach). Several contributors have argued for a change to the creditor approach. An electronic discussion group site managed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has been established for the discussion of the issue. Recent expert meetings held by OECD, Eurostat and IMF showed a majority in favour of upholding the guidelines of the 1993 SNA. However, the discussions within IMF are continuing, and the IMF will prepare a note for discussion at the April 2002 meeting of ISWGNA.

3. Treatment of interest under conditions of high inflation

11. An electronic discussion group was set up and managed by the World Bank to discuss this topic. Since no new contributions have been made and no agreement emerged, ISWGNA decided to close the group on this topic and suggested that the matter be taken up later by the expert advisory group to ISWGNA, when established.

4. Unfunded pension funds for government employees

12. Unfunded pension funds for government employees was one of the issues discussed during the revision of the 1993 SNA. It was decided not to reopen discussions until there is further development on the topic. IMF will investigate whether there is enough interest in setting up an electronic discussion group on the issue.

5. Stock options

13. The treatment of stock options is an electronic discussion group issue managed by OECD. At an October 2001 OECD meeting on national accounts, a consensus emerged on treating stock options as part of compensation of employees, but there was no clear consensus on the "time of reporting". ISWGNA decided that further consultation with experts worldwide is needed. After the consultation, a text clarifying the treatment of stock options will be posted on the United Nations Statistics Division web site.

6. Treatment of non-performing loans

14. Treatment of non-performing loans is a topic on which the Thai authorities had asked ISWGNA for clarification as to what extent unpaid interest (the financial intermediation services indirectly measured on such interest may affect GDP) should be accrued. IMF prepared a paper to note that the 1993 SNA, other international statistical manuals and international accounting standards do not provide clear criteria to decide what should be classified as non-performing loans. ISWGNA agreed that the issue should be included in the long-term research agenda. In the meantime, ISWGNA agreed that, although the 1993 SNA does not discuss the matter explicitly, its logic would require that interest be accrued on non-performing loans as long as they have not been written off or cancelled. Furthermore, countries should be encouraged to provide memorandum items to national accounts, specifying the value of provisions that should be made in respect of non-performing loans and interest payable. IMF is considering bringing those issues up for discussion in an electronic discussion group.

7. Treatment of repurchase agreements

15. The issue of repurchase agreements with respect to securities, gold etc., with or without involving cash, has been raised by IMF. The 1993 SNA treats repurchase agreements with cash as collateral loans, as a newly created financial asset, unless they involve bank liabilities that are included in measures of broad money, in which case they should be classified as deposits. That treatment was adopted at a time when it was understood that a change of ownership may not necessarily have taken place and that the acquirer of the security may not have had the right to on-sell it. However, IMF notes that market practices have changed since the 1993 SNA was written and that a legal change of ownership occurs in virtually all cases, and the party acquiring the security under a repurchase agreement has the right to sell it. IMF has sought clarification whether the collateralized loan treatment remains appropriate, and has also sought a review of the treatment of gold swaps. Regarding other

transactions of the nature of repurchasing agreements (securities lending and gold loans/deposits), the 1993 SNA is silent; IMF is recommending that they be considered as well. All these matters will be on the agenda for ongoing ISWGNA work.

8. Insurance/reinsurance

16. OECD informed ISWGNA that it is interested in forming a task force to look into problems relating to insurance and reinsurance. Eurostat expressed the same interest.

9. Trademarks and franchises

17. The Technical Subgroup on the Central Product Classification requested ISWGNA for approval of its plan to treat trademarks and franchises similarly to patented entities, as mentioned in annex I, paragraph 69, of the 1993 SNA, in the forthcoming update of the Central Product Classification (CPC). Trademarks and franchises are not discussed in the ISWGNA clarification of patented entities that are included under updates of the Internet version of the 1993 SNA. The treatment stated in annex I of the 1993 SNA and proposed by the Subgroup will treat the payment for the right to use trademarks and franchises as a payment for a service and not as property income.

C. Advisory expert group to ISWGNA

18. At the thirty-second session of the Commission, several members spoke in favour of establishing a consultative/advisory group to ISWGNA. Establishing such a group was also discussed at ISWGNA meetings in 2001. ISWGNA proposes the establishment of an advisory expert group, with the primary task of advising ISWGNA on methodology issues and helping it to achieve resolution on a number of outstanding issues as well as future issues that may arise. Important features of such a group should be global representation of experts on a broad array of national accounts topics. The draft terms of reference for such a group are contained in annex II.

D. Work of the electronic discussion groups

19. ISWGNA has set up a number of electronic discussion groups as a way of undertaking and reviewing research on current issues of national accounts. Such groups work by posting one or more papers on the topic in question at an Internet site of the organization that manages the discussions, which is linked to the United Nations Statistics Division site on national accounts at: http://www.un.org/Depts/unsd/nataccts/. The convener or moderator of the group then reviews the contributions and determines if there is a consensus and what the main conclusions or recommendations are, which are then passed on to ISWGNA for review.

20. Recent experience with a number of electronic discussion groups set up under ISWGNA auspices has been disappointing. The level of participation has been low and feedback is limited, making it difficult for groups to reach a conclusion or to move work forward. ISWGNA proposed strengthening the work of the groups in the following way:

(a) Electronic discussion groups should be more or less a virtual task force, with a moderator and a specific membership list;

(b) They should have a defined task, with a specific product and output;

(c) They should have a definite time within which to complete their task, and the moderator should be asked to provide the agreed outputs within a certain deadline;

(d) The moderator should be someone who is knowledgeable about the subject under discussion, and should be neutral in areas of controversy;

(e) ISWGNA should establish the terms of reference for the moderator who would be willing to take on the task critical to the success of a group;

(f) A key task of the moderator is to actively recruit participants;

(g) Papers and contributions to the discussions, with regular summaries provided by the moderator, should be made available through the group and via e-mail.

III. Assessment of the implementation of the 1993 SNA

21. In order to better assess the extent to which countries have implemented the 1993 SNA, three main

dimensions that need to be examined are: (a) scope of the accounts, (b) compliance with 1993 SNA concepts and (c) quality issues. As regards the scope of the accounts, an assessment of a minimum set of accounts was submitted to the Commission at its thirty-second session, and the second set of recommended accounts will be conducted after 2003 by the United Nations Statistics Division due to the transitional status of the new national accounts database. The compliance issue and quality issues are reviewed below.

A. Revised version of conceptual compliance questionnaire

22. The United Nations Statistics Division had pilot-tested a questionnaire on conceptual compliance, and plans to conduct a worldwide survey with the revised questionnaire on conceptual compliance in 2002 and report to the Statistical Commission in 2003. The revised questionnaire continued in annex I is limited in scope and requires simple answers of yes/no/partly, with some elaboration if necessary. Its objective is to determine to what extent important concepts in the 1993 SNA affecting the level of GDP, gross capital formation or gross national income (GNI) have been implemented. It does not attempt to measure how the concept is implemented nor the quality of the data used. Each question is accompanied by an explanation and references to the 1993 SNA.

B. Data-quality assessment in national accounts

23. The IMF national accounts data-quality assessment framework has been further developed, benefiting from comments from national statisticians, experts from international organizations and from experience in the field. In July 2001, a version was adopted that is consistent — to the extent possible and as far as relevant — with frameworks for other macroeconomic statistics (balance of payments, government finance, monetary and price statistics). IMF is using those frameworks to include assessments of data quality in its reports on observance of standards and codes. It is also using its framework as a compass for technical assistance and as a device to monitor such assistance.

24. The framework is also being used outside IMF. Since it encompasses the most important aspects of the statistical system and organizes them into a systematic framework, it can be used across various areas of statistics, as evidenced by its adoption by the World Bank to assess household and consumer expenditures statistics in the context of measuring poverty. The plans are to extend its application to other socio-demographic statistics. The framework can also be used, for instance, for self-assessments by national statistical offices and other users. Finally, since its methodology encompasses the organizational aspects of a statistical unit, its policies and process and the characteristics of the statistical output, work is under way under the auspices of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century to adopt the methodology with a view to deriving indicators of development in statistical capacity.

25. Although future development of data-quality assessment frameworks is envisaged in further consultations with other interested parties, it is the intention of IMF to retain the July 2001 version in the medium term.

IV. Coordination of work programmes on the implementation of the 1993 SNA

A. Research agenda, conceptual and methodological development

1. Treatment of intangible non-produced assets

26. There are a number of new issues concerning intangible non-produced assets (in addition to mobile phones), such as taxi and fishing licences and other legal constructs, that may not be adequately dealt with in the 1993 SNA. It is therefore important to have a broad-based review of those issues. An OECD meeting on national accounts held in October 2001 recommended that the Canberra city group be reconvened under the leadership of OECD and the Australian Bureau of Statistics to review the issues. ISWGNA supported the recommendation of OECD. It has not yet been decided who will be responsible for the research.

2. Handbook on non-profit institutions

27. The handbook on non-profit institutions aims at unifying into one sector all non-profit institutions (NPIs), which are currently allocated to various institutional sectors in the 1993 SNA, in order to expand the data provision on NPIs. The draft handbook is being revised by the Center for Civil Society Studies of the Johns Hopkins University after receiving comments by an Expert Group Meeting in July 2001 in New York, convened by the United Nations Statistics Division. A chapter detailing differences between the 1993 SNA and the handbook will be submitted to ISWGNA for clearance before publication by UNSD.

3. Revised handbook on environmental accounting

28. The draft revised handbook on the System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA 2000) to replace the 1993 SEEA is being revised after an expert group meeting held in May 2001. A Friends of the Chair group has been created to review the final draft and bring the review to completion. The final draft is expected to be submitted for approval by the Commission and co-published by the following five organizations: OECD, IMF, the Commission of the European Communities, the World Bank and the United Nations.

4. Other research issues

29. The following issues will remain on the research agenda of ISWGNA: stock options, repurchase agreements, insurance, non-performing loans, accrual accounting of interest, unfunded pension funds for government employees and the treatment of interest under conditions of high inflation.

B. Integrated presentation of ISWGNA work programmes

30. Annexes III and IV provide an integrated presentation of the work programmes of ISWGNA member bodies in support of SNA implementation in the same standard format used in previous ISWGNA reports. Annex III contains an updated enumeration of manuals and other support materials, while annex IV contains an updated list of meetings and research activities.

V. Points for discussion

31. The Commission is requested to express its views on the following points:

(a) The proposed creation of an advisory expert group to ISWGNA;

(b) The proposal to request the Canberra Group on Capital Stock to undertake research on intangible assets;

(c) The proposals for strengthening the work of the electronic discussion groups to promote the research and discussion of SNA conceptual issues.

Annex I

Revised version of the conceptual compliance questionnaire

Does your country's reported national accounts data currently include estimates for:

	Yes	*No*	*Partly (specify)*	*Not applicable*
Elements affecting the level of Gross Domestic Product (GDP)				
Gross capital formation (GCF)/output				
1. Is government defence expenditure on fixed assets that can be used for civilian purposes included in GCF?				
2. Is consumption of fixed capital included on all government fixed assets (airfields, roads, hospitals, docks, dams and breakwaters and other forms of construction except structures)?				
3. Is all successful mineral exploration capitalized?				
4. Is all unsuccessful mineral exploration capitalized?				
5. Are purchases of computer software included in GCF?				
6. Is expenditure on software development on own account and for sale included in GCF and output?				
7. Is expenditure on entertainment, literary or artistic originals included in GCF and on their development included in output?				
8. Is expenditure on valuables included in GCF?				
9. Is the natural growth of cultivated forests included in output in GCF?				
10. Is financial intermediation services indirectly measured (FISIM) allocated to users?[a]				
11. 1993 SNA extends the production boundary of households to include goods that are not made from primary goods — are these goods included in output?				
12. 1993 SNA extends the production boundary of households to include all goods that are produced by households whether for sale or not — are these goods included in output?				
Volume estimates				
13. Are volumes estimated using a chaining procedure on an annual basis?				

	Yes	*No*	*Partly (specify)*	*Not applicable*
Social contributions/insurance				
14. Are unfunded social contributions (for sickness, unemployment, retirement etc.) by enterprises imputed as compensation of employees and included as contributions to social insurance?				
15. Do non-life insurance estimates include premium supplements rather than being based just on premiums less claims?				
16. Do life insurance estimates include premium supplements rather than being based just on premiums less claims?				
Elements affecting Gross National Income (GNI)				
17. Are reinvested earnings estimates included in the rest of the world account?				
18. Are foreign workers' remittances excluded from GNI?				
Elements not affecting the level of GDP/GNI				
Valuation of output				
19.a Are output and value added measured at basic prices?[a]				
19.b Are output and value added measured at producers' prices?[a]				
19.c Is value added measured at factor cost?[a] (not part of the 1993 SNA)				
Final consumption				
20. Is government final consumption expenditure broken down into individual and collective consumption?				
Status of implementation of the 1993 SNA				
21. If the 1993 SNA has not been implemented in officially reported national accounts, when does the country plan to implement and release data based on the 1993 SNA? (Specify the year.)				

[a] These questions are raised for information only since the 1993 SNA allows alternative treatments.

Annex II

Terms of reference for the proposed ISWGNA advisory expert group

Introduction

At its technical-level meeting held in Geneva on 15 and 16 October 2001, the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts agreed to propose to the Statistical Commission the establishment of an advisory expert group to support ISWGNA in its deliberations on conceptual issues concerning national accounts, and to advise it on proposals in that regard for submission to the Commission.

Role

The primary role of the expert group would be to discuss conceptual issues brought to the attention of ISWGNA (e.g., issues proposed for clarification or adjustment of the 1993 SNA) and to assist in resolving such issues.

The role of the expert group would be strictly advisory, without pre-empting ISWGNA responsibilities as mandated to it by the Commission.

Composition

The composition of the expert group should reflect the global community and represent all regions in the world.

The composition of the expert group should also reflect various areas in national accounting, such as supply and use, income accounts, financial accounts and balance sheets, price and volume measurement, rest of the world accounts and quarterly accounts.

Expert group members will be selected on an individual basis, based on their expertise in national accounts issues. Besides expertise in their own national accounts area, expert group members should have a broad grasp of national accounts, enabling them to significantly contribute to discussions in areas outside their expertise.

It would be beneficial for the expert group to include experts from statistical agencies (in particular from well developed statistical agencies, including central banks producing national accounts), which would enable the expert group to draw on extensive institutional expertise.

In order to optimally profit from institutional expertise, expert group members from statistical agencies should be at a level in their agency that would ensure access to areas outside their personal expertise, which would probably imply participation on the level of directors of national accounts units.

All expert group members, including experts from statistical agencies, should act on a personal basis and not as representatives of their agency. To promote substantive discussion, the expert group should have not more than 10 members.

Organization

The expert group would discuss issues through electronic communication facilities, such as Internet teleconferencing and electronic mail, and would also have physical meetings, as needed but not more than once a year. Physical meetings would be most efficiently conducted in conjunction with an ISWGNA semi-annual meeting.

ISWGNA members would fully participate in expert group meetings, the ISWGNA member chairing ISWGNA[a] would convene and chair expert group meetings and the United Nations Statistics Division would act as the secretariat.

Financing

Physical meetings and teleconferencing would be hosted by one of the ISWGNA organizations.

Participation in the physical meetings would be self-financed for participants from developed countries, while funding of travel expenses and per diem allowances for other experts would be shared among ISWGNA members. There would be no payment for experts' services.

[a] ISWGNA is chaired by one of its member institutions on an annually rotating basis.

Annex III

Manuals, handbooks and supporting materials for SNA implementation prepared by member bodies of ISWGNA[a]

Manuals, handbooks, compilation manuals and software in support of national accounts compilation	*Responsible ISWGNA member body*	*Status*	*Date of publication/issue*
1. *Handbook on the Use of Macro-Accounts for Policy Analysis*	United Nations Statistics Division	Submitted for publication in December 1999	2002
2. *Handbook on the Non-Profit Institutions* (in cooperation with Johns Hopkins University)	United Nations Statistics Division	Final chapters available on the Internet for review by ISWGNA members	2002
3. *Manual on Government Finance Statistics*: revision of the 1986 *Manual*	IMF	Available on the Internet; printed version ready in December 2001	2001
4. *Guide for Compiling the 1993 SNA: A Practical Introduction*	United Nations Statistics Division	Draft chapters and exercises being reviewed based on comments received from ISWGNA members	2002
5. *Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting for Fisheries* (in cooperation with FAO and UNU)	United Nations Statistics Division	Draft of selected chapters	2002
6. Manual on the compilation of input-output tables under ESA 1995	Eurostat	Work in progress	2002
7. *Quarterly National Accounts Manual*	IMF	English version published	May 2001
		Spanish and French versions sent for printing	December 2001
		Russian version in translation	March 2002

Manuals, handbooks, compilation manuals and software in support of national accounts compilation	*Responsible ISWGNA member body*	*Status*	*Date of publication issue*
8. *Foreign Trade Statistics Operational Manual*	United Nations Statistics Division	Submitted for publication in 2001	2002
9. *Handbook on Prices and Volumes*	Eurostat	Available on Eurostat web site	2001
10. *Tourism Satellite Account: Recommended Methodological Framework* (in cooperation with Intersecretariat Working Group on the Tourism Satellite Account	WTO/OECD/Eurostat/ United Nations Statistics Division	Published	2001
11. *Manual on Capital Stock Statistics* (in cooperation with Canberra Group on Capital Stock)	OECD	Published	2001
12. *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services* (in cooperation with Task Force on Service Statistics)	Eurostat/IMF/OECD/ United Nations Statistics Division/UNCTAD/WTO	Adopted by Statistical Commission in 2001; submitted for publication	2002
13. *System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounts* (SEEA 2000) (in cooperation with the London Group on Environmental Accounting)	Eurostat/OECD/ United Nations Statistics Division/World Bank	Scheduled for submission to the Statistical Commission in 2002	2002
14. *OECD Productivity Manual*	OECD	Review of draft chapters by Statistical Working Party of OECD Industry Committee in November 2000	2001

Note: A list of acronyms is provided at the foot of annex IV.

[a] For publications issued before 2001, see E/CN.3/2001/7, E/CN.3/2000/2 and E/CN.3/1999/2.

Annex IV

Summary of SNA-related activities of ISWGNA member bodies

ISWGNA member body	*I Meetings, training seminars and workshops, courses etc.*	*II Research activities designed to solve conceptual and practical problems*
A. International organizations		
1. Eurostat	(a) Training of European Statisticians (TES) courses on ESA 95	(a) Examination of the allocation of FISIM under ESA 95
	(b) National accounts working party three times a year	(b) Development of methodologies to produce environmental accounts
	(c) Workshop on PPPs for West Balkan countries, Geneva, November 2001, together with OECD, EFTA and ECE	(c) Examination of Member States' methods used to compile accounts under ESA 95; compilation of inventories (1999-2000)
		(d) Task force on measurement and treatment of computer software in national accounts
		(e) Task force on accuracy assessment for national accounts statistics
		(f) Measurement of government deficit and debt
		(g) Cooperation with pre-accession countries on the implementation of ESA 95
2. IMF	(a) National accounts courses on concepts and practical implementation of the 1993 SNA: Singapore Training Institute (price statistics), 6 April-4 May 2001; regional training programme with Arab Monetary Fund, (national accounts), 6-18 October 2001; FIMF Institute (national accounts), Washington, D.C., 29 October-7 December 2001; Singapore Training Institute (quarterly national accounts), two weeks in September 2002; IMF Institute (national accounts), Washington, D.C., four weeks during October-November 2002	
	(b) Seminar on Quarterly national accounts (irregular intervals)	

ISWGNA member body	*I* *Meetings, training seminars and workshops, courses etc.*	*II* *Research activities designed to solve conceptual and practical problems*
	(c) Price statistics course on consumer, producer, and trade prices, with links to national accounts: Saint Kitts, 26 February-9 March 2001; Singapore Training Institute, 11-22 June 2001;	
	(d) Regular courses on balance-of-payments, government finance and monetary statistics that include sections on national accounts and the links between those specialized statistical systems and national accounts	
3. OECD	(a) OECD annual meetings on national accounts (Paris, 26-29 September 2000 and 9 to 12 October 2001)	(a) Continued research to elaborate possible methodologies for treating effects of environmental depletion and degradation within the framework of the 1993 SNA
	(b) OECD/Eurostat expert meeting on statistics of international trade in services (Paris, 11 and 12 and December 2001)	(b) Research work on the non-observed economy
	(c) OECD/World Bank seminar on methods and application of purchasing power parities (Washington, D.C., January/February 2001)	
	(d) Extended London Group on Environmental Accounting meeting for review of complete draft of SEEA 2000 (Voorburg, February 2001), organized by Statistics Netherlands on behalf of the Group	
	(e) Joint OECD/ECE/Eurostat meeting on national accounts (Geneva, 24-26 April 2002)	

ISWGNA member body	*I* *Meetings, training seminars and workshops, courses etc*	*II* *Research activities designed to solve conceptual and practical problems*
4. United Nations Statistics Division	(a) Technical Sub-Group on Classifications meetings (Luxembourg and New York, 2001 and 2002)	(a) Joint project with Johns Hopkins University to study non-profit institutions
	(b) Expert group meeting on international economic and social classifications (New York, June 2001)	(b) Ongoing work on further development of integrated environmental and economic accounting
	(c) Expert group meeting to review the *Handbook on Non-Profit Institutions* (New York, July 2001)	(c) Ongoing work on further development and update of kind of economic activity and product classifications (ISIC and CPC)
	(d) Workshops in cooperation with ECLAC and ESCWA on the implementation of the 1993 SNA (2001 and 2003)	
	(e) Workshop in cooperation with ASEAN on input-output tables (Jakarta, 2002)	
	(f) Workshops in cooperation with ECLAC and ESCWA on classifications (2003)	
	(g) Workshop in cooperation with ASEAN on classifications (Hanoi, 2002)	
5. World Bank	(a) World Bank/OECD seminar on methods and application of purchasing power parities (Washington, D.C., January/February 2001)	(a) Measurement of poverty using purchasing power parities compiled for specific income levels
	(b) Seminar/expert meeting on the international comparison programme (five-day expert group meeting) (Washington, D.C., January/February 2001)	(b) Projects on ICP compilation, including: (i) Development of survey framework; (ii) Research on linking of regional PPP estimates to generate globally consistent PPP estimates; (iii) Recommendations on use of expenditure weights when detailed expenditure data in the SNA are lacking; (iv) Research on comparison resistance services, e.g., health and education; (v) Integration of ICP with national statistical programme; (vi) Integration of ICP and ICOP, the expenditure and the production approaches of PPPs; and

ISWGNA member body	*I Meetings, training seminars and workshops, courses etc.*	*II Research activities designed to solve conceptual and practical problems*
		(vii) PPPs for the poor
		(c) Development of software of price collection for CPI and ICP
B. Regional commissions		
6. ECA	(a) Joint ECA/United Nations Statistics Division workshop on the implementation of the 1993 SNA (Addis Ababa, 2003)	
7. ECE	(a) Joint ECE/OECD/Eurostat meetings on national accounts (Geneva, 26-28 April 2000 and April 2002)	(a) Ongoing work on estimation of capital stock in transition economies, case studies examining methods currently used and developing improved methods of estimation
	(b) Joint ECE/OECD/Eurostat consultation on the European Comparison Programme (Geneva, November 2001 and October 2002)	(b) Continued support for the European Comparison Programme, within the International Comparison Programme
	(c) Joint ECE/OECD/CIS-STAT workshop on national accounts for CIS countries (Moscow, May 2003)	(c) Survey of national practices in estimating hidden and informal activities for national accounts
8. ECLAC	(a) International courses on national accounts by the CEMLA sponsored by the Mexican Statistical Institute, 19-23 February 2001; course on balance of payments hosted by the Central Bank of Costa Rica, 23 April-4 May 2001; course on Monetary and financial statistics, IMF and CEMLA, Mexico, 19 November-7 December 2001	(a) Survey on statistical system for the implementation of the 1993 SNA (August-November 2001)
	(b) Subregional workshops on CPI for MERCOSUR countries plus Chile and Bolivia, hosted by INE, La Paz, April 2001, and by ECLAC in Santiago, 16-20 August 2001	(b) Seventh survey on progress in the implementation of the 1993 SNA (September-November 2001)
	(c) Joint ECLAC/WTO/Instituto de Estudio Turisticos de España workshop on the tourism satellite account, Santiago, 2-4 September 2001	(c) Harmonized consumer prices index in MERCOSUR countries plus Bolivia and Chile: methodological and pilot survey results; representative set of items for a basket; terminological glossary on consumer price index

ISWGNA member body	*I Meetings, training seminars and workshops, courses etc.*	*II Research activities designed to solve conceptual and practical problems*
	(d) Joint ECLAC/United Nations Statistics Division/Central Bank of Chile seminar of uses of national accounts, Santiago, 12-15 November 2001	
	(e) Regional workshop on environmental statistics, Santiago, 10-12 December 2001	
9. ESCAP		(a) Continued support for the International Comparison Programme in the Asia and Pacific region, in cooperation with the World Bank and OECD
10. ESCWA	(a) Joint ESCWA/United Nations Statistics Division workshop on the implementation of the 1993 SNA (Beirut, 22-26 October 2001)	
	(b) Joint ESCWA/United Nations Statistics Division workshop on classifications (Beirut, 2003)	

List of acronyms used in annexes III and IV

CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CEC	Commission of the European Communities
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
EEA	European Economic Area
ESA	Economic System of Integrated Economic Accounts
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
EU	European Union
Eurostat	Statistical Office of the European Communities
FISIM	Financial intermediation services indirectly measured
GDP	Gross domestic product
ICP	International Comparison Programme
IMF	International Monetary Fund
ILO	International Labour Organization
ISWGNA	Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
WTO	World Trade Organization